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library board" which only supervises lists. She doubted the wisdom of library commissions arraying themselves against so widespread a movement toward consolidation. The most desirable solution would be one head for all needed educational departments, and under it library boards coördinate with school boards. Dr. Batt favored not one man as head, but three or five with one who should be a representative librarian. Mr. Dudgeon called attention to the fact that units might become too large to find a man capable of administering.

Miss Julia Elliott, of Chicago, outlined a plan for organizing school libraries by mail. In school libraries up to three thousand volumes, which are largely books from the same lists, it would be possible to send a shelf list, an author and title catalog and analytics by mail. The cards could be printed or mimeographed according to the demand. Very simple cataloging rules would be used, and she thought it could be done at a minimum cost of one cent a card, maximum rate, two cents a card. A visit to explain the catalog could be made when expenses were paid, and within a radius of one hundred miles, the total expense would be about the same as hiring a librarian at \$75.00 a month. She asked for suggestions concerning the use of standard or commercial size cards, for modification of cataloging rules and other details of the work. She thought books could even be shipped to The Indexers', if necessary, just as books are shipped for binding. If new books were purchased in Chicago, by coöperation with the book-sellers, it would be possible to have them cataloged and pocketed, if requested, before they were sent to the schools. An interesting discussion followed this suggestion, and the secretaries agreed it would be a happy solution of the problem in many small towns if it could be made practical.

Miss Bascom, reporting for the committee from all states represented on the publication of study outlines stated that after discussion it had been found im-

practical to ask commissions to contribute toward the salary of a specialist to prepare outlines. She stated the H. W. Wilson Company was considering the preparation of such outlines, and was only awaiting the action of the League before going ahead with the work. It seemed advisable to coöperate with this firm, the League reserving such oversight as would insure satisfactory outlines. Commissions were requested to give definite orders for such outlines to insure its financial success. It was moved and carried that this report on change of method be indorsed and referred to the publication committee for action.

It cannot be said that any "consensus of opinion" followed these animated discussions. All sides of the questions were presented with enthusiasm and logic. If there was a majority opinion, it seemed to be that duplication should be avoided, but each department was willing to leave to some other agency the honor of withdrawing from the field. The full discussion cannot fail to result in a better understanding of this timely topic and continued progress in efficiency and economy of administration.

Adjournment sine die.

MRS. MINNIE CLARKE BUDLONG,
Secretary.

COMMITTEE ON BINDING

Recommendations for Use of Cloth and Leather

Since there has recently appeared a statement from a library binder that leather was the proper material with which to bind all books, no matter how they were to be used, it seems only fair that librarians should know exactly the recommendations of the Binding Committee on this important point. The recommendations advocated by the Committee can be summed up in three brief rules.

1. Always use leather on books which are to receive hard usage.
2. Never use leather on books which will be seldom used.

3. In case of doubt give preference to cloth.

It follows from these rules that fiction and juvenile books should be bound in leather, except in localities where experience has demonstrated that cloth is better. In view of the experience of many libraries during the last 10 years there is no doubt in the minds of the Committee but that leather is best for such books, and that a good grade of cowhide is good enough for this purpose.

Reference books, especially those which are heavy such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias, etc., should, of course, be bound in leather.

It follows furthermore from these rules that practically all periodicals should be bound in cloth. There are very few libraries in which the use of bound periodicals for reference purposes justifies binding them in leather. There may be a large use of periodicals as a whole, but the use that any one volume will have year in and year out is very slight. Since the cloth which meets the specifications of the Bureau of Standards has been on the market librarians have had at their disposal a material which, in view of the tests made before the specifications were drawn up, can almost be guaranteed to last as long as posterity will wish it to. We know that cloth which is very inferior in quality has been on the backs of books for over 70 years and is still in excellent condition. It is reasonable, therefore, to suppose that cloth made according to these specifications will last practically forever in the temperate zone.

While we know this about cloth we cannot be equally sure that leather will last nearly as long. We know positively that leather which is not free-from-acid is sure to deteriorate under conditions which will be found in all libraries. We know that leathers free-from-acid will last much longer, but how long is a matter of conjecture. Furthermore, it has been discovered that in many cases leathers which have been advertised to be free-from-acid have been found on analysis to contain

as high as 1 per cent of free sulphuric acid.

There is no question but that a leather-bound book has a much better appearance than one bound in cloth, but in view of the facts the Committee on Binding believes that the use of leather, except on books much used, is to be strongly condemned.

A. L. BAILEY,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE RELATIONS

Through the action of the Post Office Department and the Interstate Commerce Commission, books will be admitted to the mail at parcel post rates, on and after March 16, 1914. This arrangement, while not altogether satisfactory to the Pacific Coast libraries, gives lower rates to libraries in most sections of the country, and it is hoped that a further readjustment may be made, which shall reduce the book rates to all libraries and for all distances.

This Committee on behalf of the Association, filed a formal statement before the Interstate Commerce Commission, while the question was under consideration.

In the Publishers' Weekly for December 20, at p. 2154, is printed a menacing quotation from the History of the Typographical Union, to which the attention of all libraries is urgently called, with the warning that incessant vigilance is necessary, if we would ensure the safe-guarding of the public good from the desire for private gain.

BERNARD C. STEINER,
Chairman.

AFFILIATION OF STATE ASSOCIATIONS

The state library associations of Illinois, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the District of Columbia Library Association have affiliated with the A. L. A., in accordance with the constitutional

amendment and by-law adopted at Kaaterskill. The Bulletin has already reported the affiliation of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, New York, Kansas, Nebraska and Minnesota. There are now twelve associations which have thus affiliated with the A. L. A.

SALE, EXCHANGE, WANTS

(Any library member of the Association may insert, without cost, a two-line notice of books or periodicals wanted, for sale or exchange.)

FOR SALE

University of Illinois Library, Urbana.

Ray Society Publications. Complete set, 1844-1908, 63 vols. in cloth, and 26 parts, all in first class condition. F. O. B. Urbana, \$200.80.

Meadville Theological School Library, Meadville, Pa.

The Christian Disciple, Boston, vols. 1-5.

Select Journal of Foreign Periodical Literature, Boston, vols. 1-4.

WANTS

Meadville Theological School Library, Meadville, Pa.

Philosophical Review, vol. 3, no. 3. 75c offered.

Expositor, London, December, 1907. 40c offered.

Open Court, Chicago, September, 1912. 20c offered.

New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.

Philosophical Review, vol. 16 through 18, or any numbers of these volumes.

Worcester, Mass., Free Library.

U. S. Adjutant general. Official army register of the volunteer army for years 1861-65. Washington, 1865. vol. 8.

OFFERS

Milton, Mass., Public Library.

Free to any library.

Estournelles de Constant, baron d'. Les Etats-Unis d'Amerique. Paris. 1913.

New York, N. Y., Public Library.

Free to any library sending eight cents for postage.

Customs Tariff Act of August 5, 1909, with alphabetical schedule and administrative provisions, containing text of Cuban reciprocity treaty, sealing act of December 29, 1897, pure food act of March 3, 1903, list of parcel post countries, elaborate index to Payne-Aldrich act, full references to Treasury decisions, issued by the National Association of Customs Brokers, copyrighted in 1909.

Waterloo, Iowa, Public Library.

A. L. A. Catalog, 1893 edition, sent free to any library on receipt of 20c postage.